

2001 Ozone

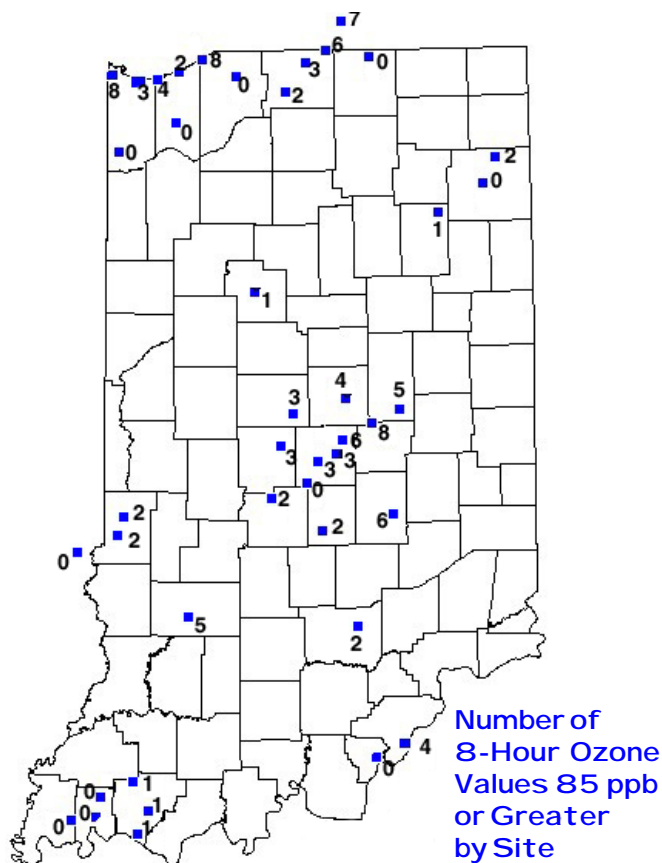
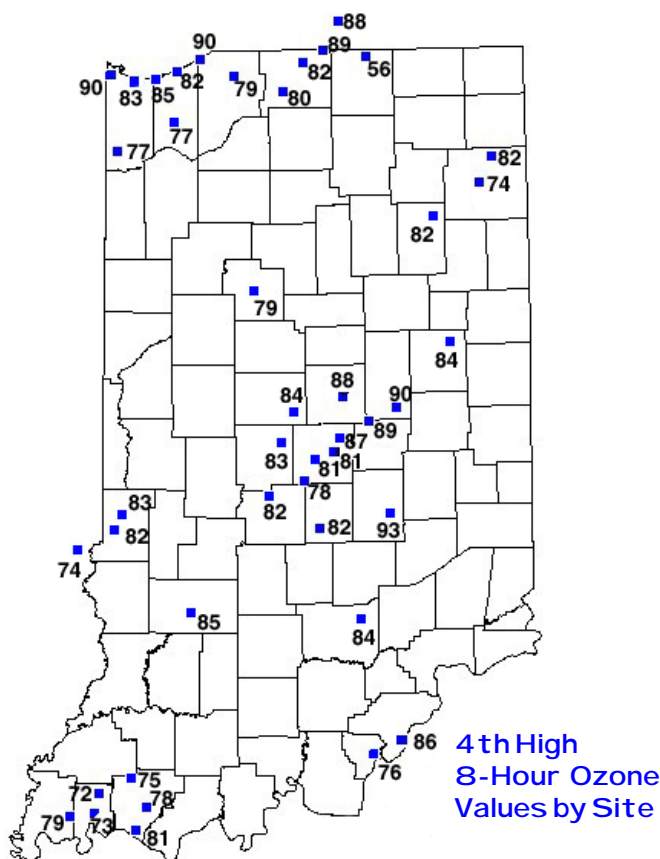


Season Report

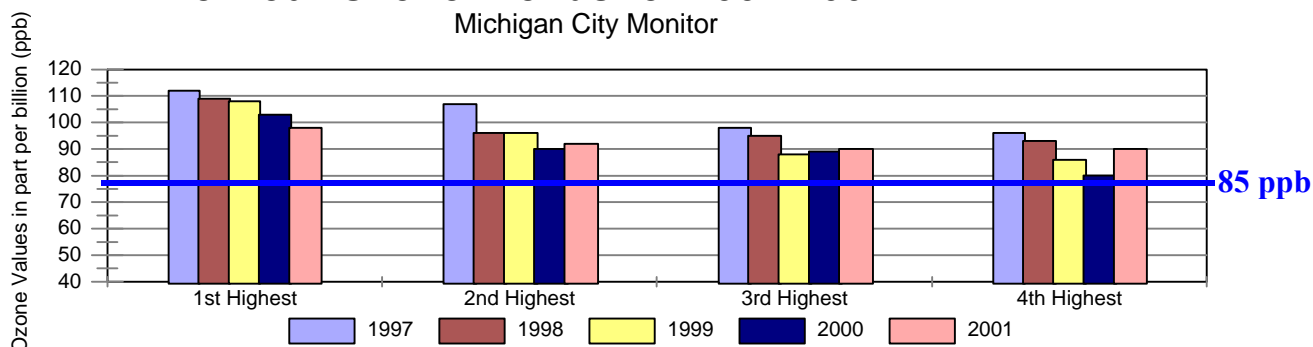
This report provides a summary of ozone levels (smog) throughout Indiana during the 2001 ozone season (May 1-September 30). The four Indiana counties where air quality exceeded the one-hour ozone standard in previous years met the one-hour ozone standard in 2001. Clark and Floyd counties were redesignated to attainment in October and U.S. EPA approved an attainment demonstration for Lake and Porter counties in November. Indiana has seven regions in the state where ozone levels exceed the new eight-hour ozone standard established by U.S. EPA in 1997. The eight-hour standard is 85 parts per billion (ppb) and is based on an average of the 4th highest 8-hour ozone readings over a three year period. While implementation of the eight-hour standard has been delayed by a lawsuit, IDEM and the public continue to take action to reduce pollutants that cause ozone and improve air quality throughout Indiana.

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) collects data from 42 ozone monitors across Indiana, including three new monitors installed at the beginning of the 2001 ozone season. Two new monitors were installed to assess air quality in Vigo County area, one in Sandcut and the second in West Union, Illinois. The third new monitor was installed in Carroll County at Flora. Across Indiana the highest fourth high, 8-hour reading was 93 ppb recorded at the Fairland monitor in Shelby County. The highest number of days in which the 8-hour standard was exceeded at a monitor was 8 days. The Fortville, Hammond, and Michigan City monitors each exceeded the 8-hour standard 8 days in 2001.

The maps below show the fourth highest 8-hour concentration at each monitor and the number of days in 2001 in which ozone values greater than 85 ppb were measured at each site.

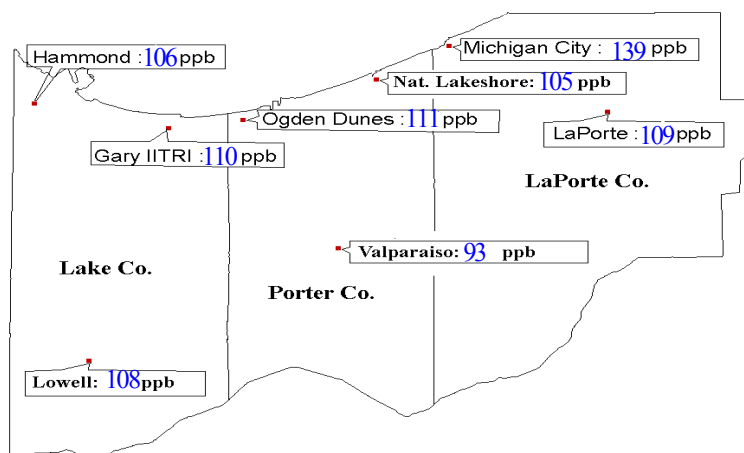


8-Hour Ozone Trends for 1997-2001



The Clean Air Act states that nonattainment designations will be based on three years of data. Northwest Indiana may be at risk of being classified nonattainment for the 8-hour standard by the U.S. EPA. The chart above illustrates the top four 8-hour ozone values at the Michigan City monitor for 1997-2001. The Michigan City monitor has the highest three year average of fourth high readings over the last three years.

Northwest Indiana 2001 Ozone Values 1-Hour Maximum Readings



While Northwest Indiana is currently classified as severe-nonattainment for the 1-hour ozone standard, air quality data shows the area now meets the 1-hour standard, well in advance of the 2007 deadline for attainment. The 1-hour standard is exceeded if there are four or more readings of 125 ppb or greater over a three year period. The map to the left shows the 1-hour maximum ozone readings for 2001. The Michigan City monitor was the only monitor to exceed 125 ppb. None of the Northwest Indiana monitors exceeded the 1-hour standard more than once in the 1999-2001 time period.

What Can You Do?

1. Get active in ozone planning for your community.

Receive local information about taking a proactive approach to reduce ozone and improve air quality in your area. Contact the Partners for Clean Air, a coalition of businesses and organizations that take voluntary actions to reduce ozone causing pollutants in Northwest Indiana. Call IDEM at the number listed below for more information on how to get involved.

2. Get in the know about ozone levels. During ozone season, listen or watch for Ozone Action Day information on your local radio and TV stations. You can even get daily ozone readings, forecasts, and monitor data from Indiana's Smog Watch web site. Check out the Smog Watch Web site at <http://www.in.gov/idem/air/smog> or call our toll-free Smog Watch Forecast Line at (800) 631-2871 from May through September.

3. Reduce your impact. Ride share; fill up the car or mow your lawn after dusk; and go inside the bank or restaurant instead of using the drive-thru. By making these efforts you can help reduce your impact on high ozone days. For more information on Indiana's ground-level ozone monitoring or voluntary reduction programs, contact Amy Morris, Indiana Department of Environmental Management at (800) 451-6027, ask for extension 3-6870 or amorris@dem.state.in.us.

